

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 FDRE-00 OPR-02 A-01 SCA-01

VOE-00 ORM-01 SR-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3637

INFO DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, MASS, TH, VS

SUBJ: KHUKRIT ON VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND PLANES AT UTAPAO

PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL
30. THE FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS
REMARKS ON VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND PLANES AT UTAPAO:

"REPORTER: HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE PLANES WHICH HAVE TRANS-
PORTED A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND LANDED IN UTAPAO?

KHUKRIT: THOSE PEOPLE MUST LEAVE; THEY CANNOT REMAIN HERE.
IT IS THE DUTY OF THE UNITED STATES ... UNDER THE AGREEMENT
REACHED, THEY CAN STOP OVER HERE BUT THEY MUST BE TAKEN OUT
OF OUR COUNTRY AS SPEEDILY AS POSSIBLE.

REPORTER: THEY ARRIVED HERE IN A HURRY, THEN INFORMED US OF
THEIR ARRIVAL LATER.

KHUKRIT: WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED WHEN THEIR LAND IS COMPLETELY
DISRUPTED AND THEIR HOMES REDUCED TO RUBBLE. THEY WILL LEAVE
OUR COUNTRY. THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT. THEY WILL BE TAKEN
AWAY.

REPORTER: WHAT ACTION WILL WE TAKE IN REGARD TO THOSE PLANES?
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KHUKRIT: WE MUST SEIZE THEM UNDER THE PRINCIPLE ADHERED TO. AND ALL PEOPLE MUST BE DISARMED. LATER, IF THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS RELATIONS WITH US, SHOULD IT REQUEST US TO TURN OVER THE PLANES AND WEAPONS WE HAVE ATTACHED, THEN ITS REQUEST WOULD BE TAKEN UP FOR CONSIDERATION.

REPORTER: WILL ONLY SOUTH VIETNAMESE PLANES THAT LAND IN UTAPAO BE SEIZED BY US?

KHUKRIT: IF THEY ARE PLANES OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE. IF THEY ARE AMERICAN PLANES, IT WILL BE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT MATTER. I DON'T KNOW FOR CERTAIN YET WHOSE PLANES THEY ARE.

REPORTER: THEY ARE COMING HERE IN A STEADY STREAM. WHAT WILL WE DO IN THE MATTER?

KHUKRIT: THEY ARE COMING HERE IN A STEADY STREAM AND THEY ARE LEAVING IN A STEADY STREAM ALSO, TRANSPORTING REFUGEES TO GUAM, TI HAWAII, AND TO OTHER DESTINATIONS THAT CAN BE FOUND FOR THEM. WE WILL NOT ALLOW THEM TO REMAIN HERE, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

REPORTER: HOW MANY PLANES?

KHUKRIT: AS I HAVE SAID ALREADY, THEIR LAND IS COMPLETELY DISTRUPTED AND THEIR HOMES REDUCED TO RUBBLE. SOUTH VIETNAM HAS FALLEN, SO HOW CAN ANYBODY FIND TIME TO SIT DOWN AND COUNT PLANES."
MASTERS

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